

REMARKS:

In the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation that each of the projections has a center average height equal to or greater than 7.0 μm . The specification discusses how significant the center average height of 7.0 μm is. As shown in the table below, which is from the present specification, if there are no projections, the sticking level is 1, the worst level.

			Comparative Example 1
Housing	Constitution	roughened surface	no
		Ra (μm)	-
		tp (%)	-
		tip angle	-
		p/h	-
	Material	Polystyrene	yes
		Polypropylene	-
		Non-stick material content (%)	0.0
	Evaluation	Sticking	1
		injection stability	3
		mold releasability	3

The following table shows Examples 1, 11 and 2 from the specification. These three Examples were conducted under the substantially similar parameters, for instance, the tps (%) in these Examples are 13.1, 14.7 and 14.7, all of which are smaller than 20. The difference in the parameters is that Ras (μm) in these Examples are 4.7, 7.1 and 9.2, respectively.

			Example 1	Example 11	Example 2
Housing	Constitution	roughened surface	yes	yes	Yes
		Ra (μm)	4.7	7.1	9.2
		tp (%)	13.1	14.7	14.7
	Material	Polystyrene	yes	yes	Yes
		Polypropylene	-	-	-
		Non-stick material content (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Evaluation	Sticking	3	4	5
		injection stability	3	3	3
		mold releasability	3	3	3

Applicant would like to call the Examiner's attention to the sticking levels of these three Examples. When Ra is 4.7 (Example 1), the sticking level is 3. Then, when Ra increases to 7.1 (Example 11), the sticking level improves to 4. Finally, when Ra increases to 9.2 (Example 2), the level improves to 5. Examples 1, 11 and 2 suggest that under the parameters shown in the table above, the sticking level improves as Ra increases between 4.7 and 9.2. Please note that tp=13.1 in Example 1 and that tp=14.7 in Examples 11 and 2. A higher tp should deteriorate the sticking level. Nonetheless, the sticking levels of Examples 11 and 2 are better than that of Example 1 because their Ra's are greater than 7.0. In other words, Examples 1, 11 and 2 suggest the significance of Ra=7.0 in that when Ra is greater than 7.0, a better sticking level is achieved. Since none of the cited references discloses or teaches the numerical limitations in amended claim 1, amended claim 1 should be allowable over the cited references.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the cited references, its dependent claims should also be allowable over the references. Nonetheless, Applicant feels necessary to explain some of the amendments made above. First, amended claim 4 now reads, "[E]ach of the multiple projections has a higher point than any other points

thereof in its configuration.” In other words, in claim 4, each projection has only one highest point regardless of whether the projection has a peak or a rounded top. Fischer (4,704,185) discloses ribs 32. The term “rib” suggests a projection shown, for instance, by Fig. 7A of the present application, which cannot have only one highest point. Likewise, Mendelovich et al. (5,735,999) discloses the bar member 66. The term “bar” suggests a similar projection, which cannot have only one highest point.

Amended claim 5 now reads, “[T]he center line average height of the multiple projections is greater than 9.0 μm . Above Example 2 shows the criticality of Ra being greater than 9.0.

Amended claim 9 now reads, “[A] load length ratio of the multiple projections at a cut level of 20% is equal to or less than 20%. The following table compares Examples 3 and 13 in terms of the sticking level.

			Example 13	Example 3
Housing	Constitution	roughened surface	yes	yes
		Ra (μm)	9.3	9.8
		tp (%)	18.0	22.0
	Material	polystyrene	yes	yes
		polypropylene	-	-
		Non-stick material content (%)	0.0	0.0
	Evaluation	sticking	5	4
		injection stability	3	3
		mold releasability	3	3

Example 3 has a greater Ra than Example 13. This suggests that Example 3 should exhibit a better sticking level than Example 13. But in reality, as shown in the

above table, the Example 13 exhibits a better sticking level than Example 3 because Example 13 has a tp-which is lower than 20.0.

Lastly, amended claim 14 now reads, "[T]he housing is formed, by a process of injection molding, of a material that contains in it a non-stick material selected from a group comprising magnesium stearate, zinc stearate, aluminum stearate and calcium stearate." In other words, the non-stick material is contained in the housing. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on the admitted prior art. The referenced paragraph in the specification discusses a "coating" of non-adhesive material, and the non-adhesive material is not contained. In this regard, Applicant calls the Examiner's attention to paragraph 39 of the present specification which reads as follows:

Comparing the present invention to the technique in patent reference 1 patent reference 1 requires a silicon resin or fluororesin layer to be coated, whereas in the present invention, the non-stick material is a part of the material to be injection-molded to form the housing. In addition, since the housing according to this embodiment does not have a coating layer, the number of production steps for making it should be fewer than those necessary for the patent reference 1. Accordingly, the production rate of the transfer tool of the invention is high, and thus the production costs can be reduced.

In the above amendment, new claims 23-37 have been added. The following tables show the significance of p/h being at most 22.

Table 6

			Example 23	Example 24	Example 25	Example 26
Housing	Constitution	roughened surface	yes	yes	yes	yes
		tip angle	60	60	60	60
		p/h	18	20	22	24
	Material	polystyrene	yes	yes	yes	yes
		polypropylene	-	-	-	-
		Non-stick material content (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Evaluation	sticking	3	3	3	2	
	injection stability	3	3	3	3	
	mold releasability	3	3	3	3	

			Example 27	Example 28	Example 29
Housing	Constitution	roughened surface	yes	yes	yes
		tip angle	60	60	60
		p/h	26	28	30
	Material	polystyrene	yes	yes	yes
		polypropylene	-	-	-
		Non-stick material content (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Evaluation		sticking	1	1	1
		injection stability	3	3	3
		mold releasability	3	3	3

Examples 23-25 show better sticking levels than Examples 26-29 because in Examples 23-25, the p/h's are all equal to or lower than 22. This critical value, p/h=22, is not shown or taught by any of the cited references. Therefore, claim 23 and its dependent claims should be allowable over the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadashi Horie", is written over a horizontal line.

Tadashi Horie
Registration No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200